

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

December 1, 1986

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate was called to order on Monday, December 1, 1986, at 4:00 p.m., with President Callahan presiding.

Senators not in attendance were: George Cicala, Jackson Gillespie, Peter Jeffery, Thomas Leitch, Mark Noll, Anne Marie Tierney

Senators excused were: Lee Anderson, Joan Brown, Annette Burton, H. Perry Chapman, Alexander Doberenz, Robert Leitzel, Joseph Pika, Byron Pipes, James R. Soles, Jean Stokes, L. Craig Wilson

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Hearing no objections, Senate President Callahan considered the agenda adopted.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Hearing no suggestions for corrections to the November 3 minutes, President Callahan considered the minutes approved as distributed.

III. REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRABANT

After brief remarks relating to the November 29 football game win over William and Mary and the December 6 game against Arkansas State, President Trabant focused upon the report recently issued by the Commission he appointed to examine the University's undergraduate learning environment. He identified the four aspects of the Commission's report which he considered to be the "most important of all the important" items in the Commission's report. These items were:

1. There should be more contact between faculty and students.
2. An effort should be made to bring the environment that is present in the graduate programs to the undergraduate programs.
3. In all University activities, an international aspect should be stressed.
4. There should be a focus on wellness in our undergraduate program.

President Trabant concluded his comments with "best wishes for a safe and most enjoyable holiday break."

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senate President Callahan made three announcements.

1. The first announcement related to the report prepared by President Trabant's Commission on Undergraduate Education. President Callahan reminded the Senate that in May when the preliminary draft was presented, he had indicated that the Executive Committee of the Senate would refer aspects of the report, with the supporting documents, to the appropriate Senate committees and that these committees would be asked to report to the Senate as soon as feasible. He noted that a copy of the report would be distributed to the members of the Senate for their information. (The report can be found in Attachment 1.) He proposed that after the Senate reached the conclusion of the meeting's agenda, the remainder of the time until adjournment would be available for informal discussion by the members of the Senate with the authors of the report, Dean Frank Murray and Dean Edith Anderson, and President Trabant.
2. The Executive Committee would like to urge Senators to examine the committee activity reports for items of interest.
3. A report on the progress of the Presidential Search Committee was made. (A copy of this report can be found in Attachment 2.)

V. OLD BUSINESS

Item A was a resolution from Senator David Bellamy calling for a modification of the calendar.

President Callahan read a letter (see Attachment 3) from Mr. Joseph DiMartile, Registrar, which proposed that the resolution not be adopted.

Senator Bellamy restated his support for the resolution.

Senator Edward Schweizer questioned whether or not the 15 minutes between periods was fixed. He suggested that a return to 10 minutes between periods would "solve the problem for everyone."

Provost Campbell suggested that returning to ten minutes between periods "would not satisfy the students, particularly those from south campus." He continued by indicating that a poll of the faculty showed overwhelming support for the 15 minute break.

Senator Virginia Ahrens wondered why Mr. DiMartile objected to beginning classes at 7:30 a.m. President Callahan indicated that his letter did not specify his reason.

Dean Helen Gouldner indicated that she felt offices ought to be open when classes start. Professor Schweizer responded that offices are not open in the evening for the large evening program.

Senator Frank Dilley suggested that beginning at 7:30 a. m. might cause the University to "lose the first two periods because faculty are unwilling to teach" so early.

Senator Gregory Stephens indicated that he had conducted a poll of faculty and graduate and undergraduate students. Of his 85 respondents, 81 were against the resolution and four were in favor of it. He elaborated with the reading of some of the comments he received.

Dean Gouldner called the question.

President Callahan called for the vote on the resolution. The resolution was defeated by voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Item A was a request from the Committee on Committees (Professor A. DeHaven, Chair) for approval of faculty appointments to two-year terms on two different Senate committees.

The following resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

RESOLVED, that the following appointments to two-year terms, beginning September 1, 1986, are hereby approved:

*Committee on Promotions and Tenure - Member: Frank South
Committee on Undergraduate Studies - Member: Lester Chadwick*

Item B was a recommendation from the Committee on Graduate Studies (Professor L. Lemay, Chair) for the establishment of a course prefix for Operations Research. (See Attachment 4 for supporting documentation.)

The following resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approves the establishment of a course prefix (OR) that will be used to designate courses offered for students in the Operations Research graduate major. Only graduate-level courses will be so designated.

Item C was a recommendation from the Committee on Student and Faculty Honors (Professor M. Rewa, Chair) changing the presentation date of the Francis Alison Faculty Award. (See Attachment 5 for supporting documentation.)

The following resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approves the presentation of the Francis Alison Faculty Award at the University's annual New Student Convocation, rather than at June Commencement exercises, beginning with the Fall 1987 ceremony.

Item D was a call for new business items. Hearing no mention of new business items, President Callahan ruled that the remainder of the time would be available for informal discussion of the report of the President's Commission.

Professor Edward Schweizer questioned whether or not this was Senate business and whether or not it would be more appropriate to adjourn and permit interested people to remain for comments. President Callahan responded, "On the advice of the Parliamentarian, we can, without a motion on the floor, use this time for informal discussion; and I think the issues in the report are sufficiently important that we should treat it as an important matter by remaining in session for at least a few minutes longer until anyone who has any questions that [he/she wishes] to address to the co-chairs of the committee or the President, who commissioned the report, has had an opportunity to do so."

President Trabant began the questioning by asking either Dean Frank Murray or Dean Edith Anderson to identify at least one item in the report that he did not mention in his introductory remarks. Dean Helen Gouldner responded by mentioning the proposed criteria for admittance to the University are almost identical to those passed unanimously by the College of Arts and Science Senate and the Deans' Council. Provost Campbell noted that the criteria have been before a Senate Committee for over a year. President Callahan noted that the Executive Committee has urged the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Standing to act on this matter.

Dean Frank Murray responded to President Trabant's earlier comment by noting the number of recommended curriculum changes, e.g. an additional writing course and a nine credit course or course sequence on Western and non-Western civilization, and the call for a reduction in class size "as a primary mechanism for increasing the level of dialect between faculty and students at the University." Dean Murray continued, "...the report is essentially the same as the interim report with the modification in the curricula areas that generated a lot of conversation during the open hearing."

Senator John Morgan questioned whether or not senators would receive a complete copy of the report. President Callahan responded affirmatively.

Senator Harry Hutchinson questioned whether or not "there [would] be an opportunity for the Senate as a whole to discuss the report after [Senators] had a chance to [read it]." President Callahan responded that any member of the Senate may request that the report be discussed.

Dean Frank Murray noted that in addition to the report, which is a "distillation" of items from various subcommittee reports and which contains those items the members of the Commission agreed upon, there are several subcommittee reports. The subcommittee reports will be forwarded to the Senate also.

In response to Senator Conrad Trumbore's questions concerning the "ultimate disposition of the report," President Callahan responded, "The report, as you know, is not a report commissioned by the Senate. It is a report commissioned by the President. The Commission delivers its report to the President who is referring it via the co-chairs of the Commission to the Senate because by the bylaws under which the Senate operates there are certain things in the report which could only become University policy and practice following Senate action. In order to inform the entire membership of the Senate, we are going to distribute the summary report.... We are not going to distribute multiple copies of the enormous subcommittee reports for simple logistic reasons; we would run through

the entire budget of the Senate Office. [However] enough copies will be made to provide all of the standing committees which will have to consider [items within these reports] with the full packet of documentation. Anything that [returns to the Senate] as a result of the standing committees [consideration of] this report will... be voted on."

Senator Robert Dalrymple requested further elaboration on the required curriculum. Dean Frank Murray responded with the following points:

- a. There be 60 hours in an appropriate distribution among the areas of fine arts, humanities, social sciences, mathematics, and the natural sciences.
- b. "In the long term, we want to see a balanced distribution among these areas in each degree program."
- c. There be a nine credit interdisciplinary core course sequence on Western and non-Western civilization.
- d. "In addition to E-110, another three credit course, devoted to writing and oral presentation, to be taken in the first two years."
- e. There be a four credit course sequence, one credit at a time, in the topic of health or wellness.
- f. There be a "three credit senior seminar in the major in which an attempt is made to relate the major to other fields of study."

Dean Helen Gouldner asked for a point of clarification. "Is there a policy somewhere that says which has precedent--the College Senate over the college curriculum or the University Senate over the college curriculum?" Provost Campbell responded that "proposals originating outside of the faculty generally go to the Faculty Senate for resolution." He reminded the Senate that action can be taken on a report without Senate action, if the Senate does not respond in an appropriate time.

Dean Anderson responded to Dean Gouldner's request by suggesting that the recommendations of the Commission are designed to encourage debate. She identified the need to improve the Student Center as another item needing attention.

Senator Betty Haslett questioned whether or not the report included items of substance and of procedure and whether or not the Senate would have the opportunity to vote on both. Dean Frank Murray responded that the Senate would vote on any recommendation brought to the Senate by its committees. President Callahan reiterated his earlier point that changes will depend upon the Faculty Senate voting on items reported to it from its committees.

Senator Stephen Wolff suggested that a copy of the full report with the subcommittee reports be put on reserve at the library. President Callahan thought this was an excellent suggestion.

Provost Campbell urged senators to ensure that the report is discussed at the department and college levels and deans to put the report on the agendas for faculty meetings.

Hearing no further discussion, President Callahan received a motion for adjournment at 4:50 p.m.

Dutifully submitted,



Carol Vukelich
Secretary
University Faculty Senate

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Attachments:

1. Report from the Commission on Undergraduate Education
2. Report on the Progress of the Presidential Search Committee
3. Letter from Mr. Joseph DiMartile
4. Memo recommending the establishment of a course prefix
5. Letter recommending changing the presentation date of the Francis Alison Faculty Award